

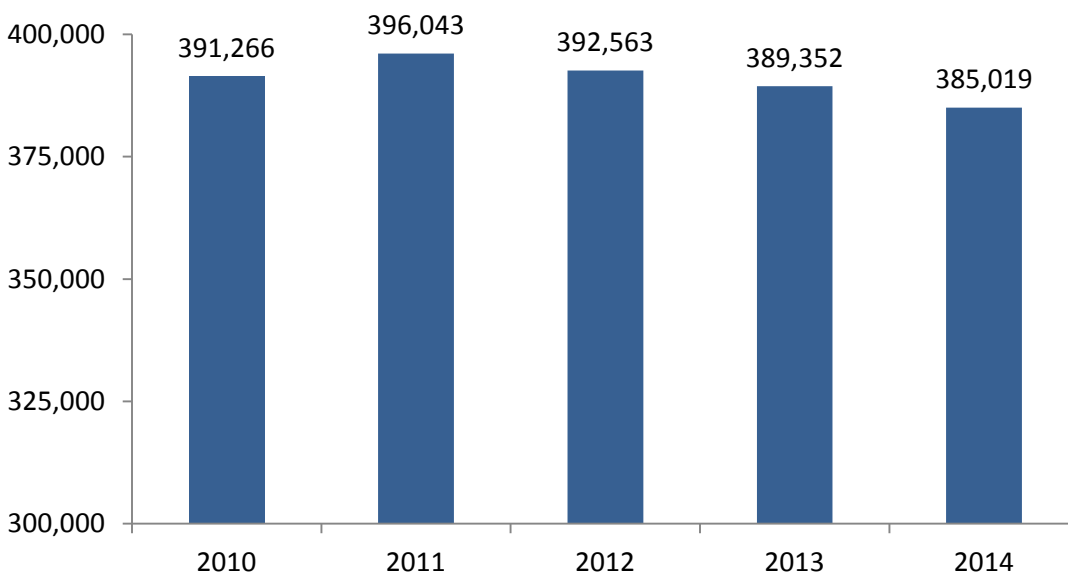
# Enrollment

After decades of growth, enrollment in Missouri's colleges and universities has begun to decline. The decrease in enrollment is attributed to several factors, including an improving economy resulting in more people choosing employment over higher education and a decline in the number of high school graduates.

As of Fall 2014, the state's public higher education institutions enrolled about 252,900 students, representing a full-time equivalent of about 184,300 students. The state's independent institutions enrolled about 132,100 students, representing a full-time equivalent enrollment of about 94,700 students.

Total head-count enrollment decreased by nearly 6,250 students, or 1.6 percent, from Fall 2010 to Fall 2014. Full-time equivalent enrollment decreased by about 3,660 students or 1.3 percent during the same time period.

**Enrollment at Missouri public colleges and universities, 2010-2014**



\*Headcount enrollment at Missouri's public and private 2- and 4-year institutions

## Headcount enrollment, 2010-2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Percent change 2010-2014
<b>Independent institutions</b>	<b>135,143</b>	<b>135,406</b>	<b>135,538</b>	<b>134,445</b>	<b>132,110</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
Independent (not-for-profit) four-year	134,204	134,516	134,730	133,601	131,272	-2.2%
Independent (not-for-profit) two-year	939	890	808	844	838	-10.8%
<b>Public institutions</b>	<b>256,123</b>	<b>260,637</b>	<b>257,025</b>	<b>254,907</b>	<b>252,909</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
Public four-year	144,555	147,074	148,440	149,425	153,346	6.1%
Public two-year	111,568	113,563	108,585	105,482	99,563	-10.8%
<b>Statewide public and independent institutions</b>	<b>391,266</b>	<b>396,043</b>	<b>392,563</b>	<b>389,352</b>	<b>385,019</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>

## Full-time equivalent enrollment, 2010-2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Percent change 2010-2014
<b>Independent institutions</b>	<b>95,607</b>	<b>97,277</b>	<b>97,827</b>	<b>95,552</b>	<b>94,760</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
Independent (not-for-profit) four-year	95,178	96,797	97,366	95,209	94,271	-1.0%
Independent (not-for-profit) two-year	429	480	461	343	489	14.0%
<b>Public institutions</b>	<b>187,120</b>	<b>189,298</b>	<b>186,874</b>	<b>185,767</b>	<b>184,305</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
Public four-year	114,453	116,150	116,625	117,225	119,924	4.8%
Public two-year	72,667	73,148	70,249	68,542	64,381	-11.4%
<b>Statewide public and independent institutions</b>	<b>282,727</b>	<b>286,575</b>	<b>284,701</b>	<b>281,319</b>	<b>279,065</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>

## Missouri high school graduates

A declining number of high school graduates is expected to continue to impact college enrollments in the coming years. The number of high school graduates in Missouri peaked at 70,600 in 2009-2010. After dropping back to approximately 64,500 graduates in 2013-2014, the number of high school graduates in Missouri is projected to remain relatively stable – about 65,500 annually – through 2028 with some increase between 2021 and 2027.

